



Two and Two

The Call to Do

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b–c

Trip Planning

Sometimes even a tour guide needs help. Often in trip planning tour guides rely on information provided by people that have traveled before them. This information is used to fashion the most practical and efficient way to make the trip and explore the area. In today's lesson, information is provided about the seventy being forerunners of Christ's peace. This suggests they may survey the landscape and the community in order to know how best to share the message of Jesus. During this portion of our class journey we will focus on

- 1) a brief overview of the history and ministry of the seventy;
- 2) an exploration of how the seventy can share and prepare the way; and
- 3) how we may become forerunners of Christ's peace, sharing with the seventy and Twelve in mission.

Packing List

Luke 10:1–9 NRSV
Doctrine and Covenants 104:13 and
163:5b–c

Navigational Aids

“To accelerate the work of sharing the gospel, the Twelve and the Seventy should be closely associated in implementing wholistic evangelistic ministries. The seventy are to be the forerunners of Christ's peace, preparing the way for apostolic witness to be more readily received. Procedures regarding the calling and assignments of the Presidents of Seventy and members of the Quorums of Seventy shall be developed to facilitate the maximum level of collaboration with the Council of Twelve. The Twelve, the Presidents of Seventy, and the Quorums of Seventy should spend sufficient time together to ensure a mutual understanding of evangelistic priorities and approaches” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b–c).

Luke 10:1–9: This passage focuses on Jesus calling the seventy and the ministry of the seventy.

The **Doctrine and Covenants** passages include historical information relative to the development of the office of seventy as well as contemporary language about the shared responsibilities of the Twelve and the seventy.

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask a couple of youth to read Luke 10:1–9 and Doctrine and Covenants 104:13. Use the following activity to further explore the seventy's history and role.

Meeting the Forerunners

Forerunners are individuals that go before us and explore venues and arenas before we move in. One such arena is the journey of discovering the sacred story of Jesus and then sharing it with others. The seventy are first called in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus, in his wisdom, knew the task of sharing the good news was too much responsibility for one person so he first appointed the Twelve and then the seventy to help them. So, what do the seventy do? Have one of the youth read the scripture from Luke while the others pantomime the actions in it. Afterwards ask the youth to respond to the following questions.

- 1) Why do you think it was important for the seventy to go out in twos?
- 2) What were they instructed to take with them?
- 3) Why do you think they were instructed to do this?
- 4) What were some of the things they were instructed to do?

The Twelve and the Seventy

In the Doctrine and Covenants there is a passage that contains information about the development of the office of seventy in the Community of Christ. This passage is found in Section 104:13. Ask the following.

Were there similarities in the Luke and Doctrine and Covenants scripture? What were they?

In Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b–c the seventy are instructed to be forerunners of Christ's peace by preparing the way for apostolic witness to be received. This passage goes on to express the importance of the Twelve and the seventy to working closely together. Ask the following questions.

- 1) Why is it important for the Twelve and seventy to work together?
- 2) How can the seventy be forerunners? What tasks do they need to carry out for apostolic witness to be received?
- 3) When you hear the term Christ's peace, what comes to mind?

Two and Two

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b–c

Repacking the Scripture

Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b–c describes the importance of the ministry of the work of the seventy as forerunners of Christ's peace. This work is to be shared with the Twelve. The important point is that they work together. Working together usually makes tasks easier. One example of this may be the task of gathering wood for a fire on an outdoor adventure. It is much easier if several people do it. The same can be said for sharing the story of Jesus. Ask the youth to share ideas about certain jobs or tasks that are more easily accomplished with the help of two people. An example might be a trapeze artist. Can you imagine a trapeze artist preparing to let go of the trapeze in expectation of someone being present to catch them, and the other person is not there? It certainly works better if there are two working together.

Being a Forerunner for Forerunners

The youth have explored the history, responsibilities, and current understandings of the office of seventy. Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b refers to the seventy as forerunners of Christ's peace. Sometimes being a forerunner involves going ahead to investigate. Perhaps the task of the forerunner becomes easier if they work with others that are already engaged in the community where the seventy are sent. Being a forerunner may involve leaving your comfort zone and becoming more selfless. So, if the seventy came to your community and asked you the best way to share Christ's peace, how would you respond?

The previous lesson focused on the importance of the Twelve in providing ministry. Several foci were shared including signal communities, peace, and justice.

In being forerunners for the seventy ask the youth to write several thoughts about what they believe is important for the seventy to know about their community and what they think is the best way to share Christ's peace.

Place these responses in an envelope and mail them to the Presidents of Seventy at:

Community of Christ
1001 West Walnut
Independence, MO 64050

We're Not There Yet; The Journey Continues

The importance of the ministry of the seventy is expressed in the New Testament as well as Section 163:5b–c. Today's lesson explored some of the history of the office of seventy, as well as reviewed their key responsibilities. More important was the sharing of the concept of being forerunners of Christ's peace. In closing, request that the youth pray. Suggest they pray for the ministry of the seventy, signal communities, and the youth's individual needs and concerns.



Legend

ALIYAH Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b–c lesson for Youth © 2008 by Community of Christ. Permission given to reproduce any pages for Community of Christ use. Other reproductions of this resource require written permission.

Contact Poul Wilson, Community of Christ, kpwilson@CofChrist.org. Unless otherwise noted, Bible scripture verses are quoted or adapted from the NRSV. "The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and are used by permission. All rights reserved." Other scriptures used in this resource include the following: Doctrine and Covenants (Section 163), Community of Christ, Herald Publishing House.